

August 3, 2012

# Weekly Views

The Rockville Correctional Facility held its first offender-driven fundraiser for the ADOPT program. ADOPT (Animals Depending On Prison Time) is completely self-sustaining and all funding for the program must come through donations and fundraisers. Offenders were allowed to order two slices of cheesecake made by the Inmate to Workmate offenders and Aramark staff. The overwhelming support of the offenders for the program resulted in 628 slices of cheesecake ordered. This amounted to 25 Oreo cheesecakes, and 28 Turtle and Snickers cheesecakes respectively.

Miami Correctional Facility emergency and executive staff and were awakened early to a phone call from the facility asking them to report to work, "MCF was under an Emergency Count". The facility

held its annual mock drill, simulating an offender escape. Emergency Squad members as well as members of the K-9 team and on-duty staff used trailing dogs around the property to locate the "offender." MCF is the second facility in the state to conduct its annual drill. Communication was efficient and effective. This year the scenario was focused around utilizing in-house staff, instead of going outside the facility and utilizing other agencies. It also encompassed shift change and calling in staff who were off-duty at the time it kicked off at 4:30 a.m. Assistant Superintendent Daryl Walls headed up this drill getting first-hand experience on running things in an emergency. "I thought everyone here did a fantastic job," he said.

PEN Products Operations Manager Doug Evans and Apprenticeship Program Coordinator Kristin Tisdale traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept an award on behalf of the IDOC and PEN Products from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). IDOC and PEN received national recognition by the USDOL as a 21st Century Registered Apprenticeship Trailblazer and Innovator. There are currently more than 24,000 registered apprenticeship programs in the nation, and only 70 of those programs were chosen for this award. Evans and Tisdale also able to joined U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis at a celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the National Apprenticeship Act.

U.S. Representative Andre Carson, who represents Indiana's 7th congressional district, stopped by the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) to discuss efforts by the Department and IREF to prepare residents for return to the community, specifically public and private community-based programs that further reduce declining recidivism rates. Several residents and staff from IREF, IDOC, and PEN Products gathered to meet with Representative Carson prior to accompanying him on a tour of the facility. Carson also took the opportunity to greet and speak with residents in several housing units.

Madison Correctional Facility's ADOPT (A Dog on Prison Turf) program is featured on Cesar's Way, a website run by the Dog Whisperer, Cesar Millan. The Dog Whisperer is known for rehabilitating dogs and training their owners. The dog handlers at Madison Correctional Facility practice many of the "Cesar's Way" techniques. The article can be found at <http://www.cesarsway.com/dogrescue/rescuestories/The-Pawshank-Redemption-Part-One>

Rockville Correctional Facility, getting ready to launch a Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) unit in September, got a boost from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Wabash PLUS presented Rockville staff with a check for \$1,000 to help the faith and character based housing unit get rolling. PLUS is self supporting and Rockville went to Wabash to discuss curriculum, fund raising techniques and staff/volunteer training along with a tour of the WVCF unit.

Administrative personnel at the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) conducted a Staff Assembly to update staff on new initiatives at the facility and to recognize employees for various accomplishments. Casework Manager Curtis Duncan was recognized as Employee of the Quarter; Delana Ritchie was announced as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter; Vicki Angell was recognized as Officer of the Quarter, and Melissa Miels as Contractual Employee of the Quarter; and the Extra Mile Award was awarded to Jeffery Riggs.

Logansport Juvenile, Camp Summit, CIF, Pendleton Juvenile and Westville Correctional Facility hosted facility blood drives for the Annual IDOC Blood Drive Challenge. Logansport collected 48 units from 58 donors in two days. Camp Summit staff donated 18 units and were given Red Cross T-shirts as a show of appreciation. CIF had over 50 staff donate, collecting 41 units over two days. Pendleton Juvenile hosted a blood drive during the facility's Community Day, collecting 16 units. Westville collected a whopping 86 units during a two-day blood drive. The IDOC Blood Drive Challenge coincides with a nationwide goal to restore blood levels that reach an emergency low during the summer months as donors are caught up in seasonal activities. Regardless of the country's trends, IDOC staff always come through.

Pendleton Correctional Facility honored two employees who are retiring from state service. Accountant Teresa Pettigrew was honored for 22 years of service and Correctional Sergeant David Manship was recognized for 17 years of service with the Department. The facility would like to thank these employees for their years of distinguished and dedicated service and offer best wishes for a great retirement.

The Indiana Women's Prison received a short visit from a new resident. A baby bird that had fallen out of its nest was rescued and cared for by offenders and staff. The bird's mother came back to reclaim her missing chick and took it back to the safety of their nest.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted 32 Kairos volunteers in a four-day workshop for 30 offenders. Volunteers provided cookies to more than 3100 offenders throughout the facility.